SEEING LIFE WHOLE

NEAR the seat of one of the early Galatian churches of Asia Minor the archæologists have found and deciphered this Christian epitaph:

"Here lies the slave of God, Theodore, presbyter of the saints and silver-worker, the friend of all. He was perfected on November 15."

The inscription gives us few details, but it reflects a wonderfully well-rounded and complete life. In one phase, life is a struggle for daily bread, and Theodore, like other men of that ancient city, had his craft. But to him, life was a service, too, and God was a Master to whom he owed implicit obedience. He counted it a distinction to be called "the slave of God," and this was not merely a theory. He associated with men who obeyed God, and his implicit faith and godly life seem to have made him a leader. Also, he was known beyond his little church circle. He did not confine his good works and his kindly ministrations to those who thought and lived as he did. Like his Master, he served all who needed his service. Probably he was better known in his native city as the "friend of all" than as a "presbyter of the saints."

Evidently, too, he saw beyond what many regard as the pathetic end of every life. He died as the "slave of God," and, with the firm confidence that God had other work for him to do beyond and a sweeter rest to give, his Christian friends wrote over his grave, "He was perfected on November 15." The life that had broadened to fill its environment here was merely transferred into a wider sphere above.

To see life whole means to see *all there is in it.* Is it nothing more than a limited opportunity for personal profit and enjoyment? Or is God a real factor to be reckoned with in every life, and does that entail obligation? Is there a divine purpose underneath your life and mine that gives it the character of a trust held for God, and a mission in behalf of other men? And how far does this mission extend?

Life has a definite, actual significance. It means *just so much*, neither more nor less. What we persuade ourselves to think about life changes nothing. The only wisdom is to try to *see life whole*, and to live according to that enlarged view.

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